Agreement between Indian Railways and R.T.D.C.

*220. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement have been signed between Indian Railways and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation regarding the train palace on wheels running on broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of R.T.D.C. in the agreement;

(d) the amount of profit earned/loss suffered by this train during the first year of its operation;

(e) whether any change is proposed to be made in the existing route of train; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The gross earnings are Rs.788.88 lakhs. The figures of profit/loss are under compilation.

(e) No, Sir,

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

1881. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the gauge conversion works in Mathura- Achhnera and Bandikui-Agra rail lines are likely to be started;

(b) the time by which the gauge conversion works on above lines are likely to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are considering any scheme to remove the difficulties being faced by the passengers and daily commuters due to the delay in conversion of the said rail lines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The works will be started and completed during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) These works were planned under BOLT. There has been delay owing to unsatisfactory response to the BOLT offer.

(d) and (e). Normal MG services are operating on these sections.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Use of Railway Wagons

1882. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CAG indicts railways for wagon use" appearing in the Times of India dated July 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Comptroller and Auditor General of India in their report for the year 1995 has commented upon the wagon utilisation on Indian Railways for the period 1990-91 to 1993-94. During this period the wagon utilisation had shown less improvement due to poor offering of traffic. However, with effect from 1994-95 and during 1995-96, with upsurge in the economy, most of the wagon utilisation figures have shown marked improvement as will be evident from the table below:

Year	NTKM/ Wagon Day	% Variation	Wagon/Km.	% Variation
1990-91	1407		110.5	
1991-92	1439	2.3	113.2	3.5
1992-93	1457	1.2	116.4	2.4
1993-94	1506	3.3	125.0	7.4
1994-95	1590	5.6	138.5	10.8
1995-96	1754	10.3	148.1	6.9

Year	Wagon Turnaround	% Variation
1990-91	11.50	
1991-92	11.10	3.5
1992-93	10.83	2.4
1993-94	10.59	2.2
1994-95	9.89	6.6
1995-96	9.07	8.3

The comparative details for the years 1991-92 vis a vis 1995-96 in respect of wagon utilisation indices, viz., NTKM/per wagon day wagon kilometre per wagon day and wagon turn around for Central, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier, Southern, South Central & South

Eastern Railways is as under :

NTKMs per wagon per day

Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	1473	1621
North Eastern	2109	1787
Northeast Frontier	1388	1611
Southern	1245	1372
South Central	1516	1737
South Eastern	1384	1877

Wagon Kilometres per wagon per day

Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	112.0	127.0
North Eastern	146.0	157.0
Northeast Frontier	89.0	93.0
Southern	102.1	107.6
South Central	129.9	172.1
South Eastern	87.6	131.1

Comparative Wagon turn round - 1991-92 & 1995-96

Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	6.6	5.1
North Eastern	6.1	6.2
Northeast Frontier	6.4	6.4
Southern	6.2	5.4
South Central	6.2	5.6
South Eastern	6.6	5.1

Late Running of South Bound Superfast Trains

1883. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the south bound superfast trains have been found to be habitually running late;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities and bad weather etc.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

National Airports in the Country

1884. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of national airports in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to link new places with air service in the coming years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to make air service more efficient and convenient and to remove the difficulties of the passengers going abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are 120 civil airports in the country, including 5 international airports, 28 civil enclaves in airports controlled by the Ministry of Defence and 87 airports under the control of the Airports Authority of India.

(b) and (c). Airlinking of new places is decided by the airline operators keeping in view the commercial viability.

(d) and (e). In the domestic sector, private airlines have been providing air services, between various cities, in addition to Indian Airlines. Foreign airlines operate schedule services from the international airports to destinations outside India. However, visa, currency, and other restrictions imposed by foreign Governments have to be followed by Indian nationals for visiting foreign countries.

Railway Link with Gangtok

1885. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to connect Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim with Railway net-work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Since Gangtok is located in difficult mountaineous terrain, it would be difficult to construct a Railway line. However, a survey for a new line from Sivok to Gelikola has been taken up.

Rake in Trivandrum Bound Howrah Express

1886. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trivandrum bound Howrah Express has its own rake;